



## **Wildland Fire Management Planning**

### **Prince William Forest Park**



## Why are you here?

- You were invited to this open house meeting because you are a park neighbor, adjacent landowner, or you are a concerned citizen, and you want to find out more of what this is all about. We also value your input.



## Why are you here?

- You are here as part of the involvement by the public in what is called a “Scoping” session.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (also called NEPA) of 1969 requires public notification and involvement in major federal actions.



## NEPA, tell me more...

- Any decisions calling for actions having the potential to significantly affect the human environment will require a formal analysis of alternatives.

*(NPS Management Policies 2001 2.3.3.4)*



## NEPA, tell me more...

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- From this scoping meeting, and one scheduled for local, state and federal agencies, we will develop a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), based on the comments received.



## NEPA, tell me more...

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- The Draft EA will address a range of alternatives. A public comment period will be open for 30 days following completion of the Draft EA.



## NEPA, tell me more...

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- The results and recommendations of the Final EA will guide the Wildland Fire Management Plan for the park.



## What is the timeline?

March 14	Public Scoping meeting
• March 31	Agency Scoping meeting
• Mid Summer	Draft EA open for Public review
• Fall	Final EA
• December	Fire Management Plan finalized





## What is this meeting really about?

- This is about the development of an updated Wildland Fire Management Plan for Prince William Forest Park, a unit of the National Park Service.



## Why the need for a Plan?

The National Fire Plan adopted by Congress has directed all agencies to take a strong look at vegetation and fuel accumulation in relation to safety for firefighters, the public, and surrounding communities.



## Why the need for a Plan?

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We are also directed to reduce the threat to real property from *wildland* fire along with the mission we are here to perform.



## Our Mission, what is it?

The mission of the National Park Service is “...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of the future generations....”

*NPS Organic Act 1916*



## Purpose and Need for the Environmental Assessment

The purpose of the *Environmental Assessment* is to present and analyze alternatives for carrying out the wildland fire management program in Prince William Forest Park. It will also present and analyze effects that would occur as a result of implementing alternatives.



## Purpose and Need of a Wildland Fire Management Plan

- The specific purposes of the *Prince William Forest Park Wildland Fire Management Plan* are to:



## Purpose and Need

- Identify and implement methods to restore and maintain park ecosystems and ecosystem processes that allow wildland fire to play its natural role in the ecosystem.
- Reduce the risk of wildland fire to cultural resources (i.e., historic buildings & archeological sites) through fuels reduction, or fire suppression to prevent fires from damaging cultural resources.



## Purpose and Need

- Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire, including near the wildland/urban interface (communities, government and commercial buildings, and other developed areas), while continuing to reverse the adverse effects from past fire suppression and prevention activities.





## Purpose and Need

- Implement a wildland fire management program that provides a safe environment for firefighters and the public, including safe operations and wildland fire management related facilities.



## Purpose and Need

To provide a plan that is consistent with National Park Service *wildland* fire management policy and adheres to guiding principles from the Federal Fire Policy, which recognizes that:



## Federal Wildland Fire Policy

- Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every wildland fire management activity.
- Wildland fire is an essential ecological process and a natural change agent.



## Federal Wildland Fire Policy

- Wildland fire management plans, programs, and activities support land and resource management plans and their implementation.
- Sound risk management is a foundation for all wildland fire management activities.



## Federal Wildland Fire Policy

- Wildland fire management programs and activities are economically viable, based on values to be protected, costs, and land and resource management objectives.



## Federal Wildland Fire Policy

- Wildland fire related plans and activities should be based upon the best available science.



## Federal Wildland Fire Policy

- Wildland fire management plans and activities incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations.
- Federal, state, local, and interagency coordination and cooperation are essential.



## Federal Wildland Fire Policy

- Standardization of policies and procedures with other agencies is an ongoing objective.





## How may you help?

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Your involvement is a key element in the planning process, and we appreciate and welcome your participation.

Please be sure you have signed in today and we encourage you to fill out a comment form and turn it in to us.

# National Park Service



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## How may you help?

Additional comments may be mailed to:

Superintendent

Prince William Forest Park

Wildland Fire Management Planning

18100 Park Headquarters Rd.

Triangle VA 22172-1644



## How may you help?

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You may also e-mail questions or comments  
to:

[PRWI\\_Fire@nps.gov](mailto:PRWI_Fire@nps.gov)



## How may I receive more information?

To keep up to date on the plan process,  
please check our website at:

[www.nps.gov/prwi/Fire\\_Management](http://www.nps.gov/prwi/Fire_Management)